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Page 11



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Trump on Capitol Hill implores divided Republicans to unify behind his big tax cuts bill

By LISA MASCARO, KEVIN FREKING, LEAH ASKARINAM and JOEY CAPPELLETTI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump implored House Republicans at the Capitol to drop their fights over his big tax cuts bill and get it done, using encouraging words but also the hardened language of politics over the multitrillion-dollar package that is at risk of collapsing before planned votes this week.

During the more than hour-long session Tuesday, Trump warned Republicans not to touch Medicaid with cuts, and he told New York lawmakers to end their fight for a bigger local tax deduction, reversing his own campaign promise. The president, heading into the meeting, called himself a “cheerleader” for the Republican Party and praised Speaker Mike Johnson. But he also criticized at least one of the GOP holdouts as a “grandstander” and warned that anyone who doesn’t support the bill would be a “fool.”

“We have unbelievable unity,” Trump said as he exited. “I think we’re going to get everything we want.” The president arrived at a pivotal moment. Negotiations are slogging along and it’s not at all clear the package, with its sweeping tax breaks and cuts to Medicaid, food stamps and green energy programs, has the support needed from the House’s slim Republican majority. Lawmakers are also being asked to add some \$350 billion to Trump’s border security, deportation and defense agenda.

Inside, he spoke privately in what one lawmaker called



President Donald Trump, center, surrounded by Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., and Rep. Lisa McClain, R-Mich., speaks to reporters before a House Republican conference meeting, Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

the president’s “weaving” style and took questions. The president also made it clear he’s losing patience with the various holdout factions of the House Republicans, according to a senior White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

But Trump himself disputed that notion as well as reports that he used an expletive in warning not to cut Medicaid. Instead, he said afterward, “That was a meeting of love.” He received several standing ovations, Republicans said. Yet it was not at all clear that Trump, who was brought in to seal the deal, changed minds.

“We’re still a long ways away,” said Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., the chair of the House Freedom Caucus. Conservatives are insisting on quicker, steeper cuts to federal programs to offset the costs of the trillions of

dollars in lost tax revenue. At the same time, a core group of lawmakers from New York and other high-tax states want bigger tax breaks for their voters back home. Worries about piling onto the nation’s \$36 trillion debt are stark.

With House Democrats lined up against the package as a giveaway to the wealthy at the expense of safety net programs, GOP leaders have almost no votes to spare. A key committee hearing is set for the middle of the night Tuesday in hopes of a House floor vote by Wednesday afternoon.

“They literally are trying to take health care away from millions of Americans at this very moment in the dead of night,” said House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York. Trump has been pushing hard for Republicans to unite behind the bill, which has been uniquely shaped

in his image as the president’s signature domestic policy initiative in Congress. Asked about one of the conservative Republicans, Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky, Trump lashed out.

“I think he is a grandstander, frankly,” the president continued. “I think he should be voted out of office.”

But Massie, a renegade who often goes it alone and wears a clock lapel pin that tallies the nation’s debt load, said afterward he’s still a no vote.

Also unmoved was Rep. Mike Lawler, one of the New York Republicans leading the fight for a bigger state and local tax deduction, known as SALT: “As it stands right now, I do not support the bill. Period.”

The sprawling 1,116-page package carries Trump’s title, the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” as well as his campaign promises to extend the tax breaks approved during his first term while

adding new ones, including no taxes on tips, automobile loan interest and Social Security. There’s also a higher standard deduction, of \$32,000 for joint filers, and a bigger child tax credit.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a nonpartisan fiscal watchdog group, estimates that the House bill is shaping up to add roughly \$3.3 trillion to the debt over the next decade.

Republicans criticizing the measure argued that the bill’s new spending and tax cuts are front-loaded, while the measures to offset the cost are back-loaded.

In particular, the conservative Republicans are looking to speed up the new work requirements that Republicans want to enact for able-bodied participants in Medicaid. They had been proposed to start Jan. 1, 2029, but GOP Majority Leader Steve Scalise said on CNBC that work requirements for some Medicaid beneficiaries would begin in early 2027.

At least 7.6 million fewer people are expected to have health insurance under the initial Medicaid changes, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said last week.

Republican holdouts are also looking to more quickly halt green energy tax breaks, which had been approved as part of the Biden-era Inflation Reduction Act, and are now being used for renewable energy projects across the nation.

But for every change Johnson considers to appease the hard-right conservatives, he risks losing support from more traditional and centrist Republicans. □

First U.S. utility seeks permit for a small nuclear reactor

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT
Associated Press

For the first time in the United States, a utility is asking federal regulators for a permit to build a small nuclear reactor.

The nation's largest public power company, the Tennessee Valley Authority, announced Tuesday it submitted a construction permit application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a small, modular nuclear reactor. It wants to develop next-generation nuclear power in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, at its Clinch River site.

TVA President and CEO Don Moul said that by going first, they can show other utilities a way to accelerate the development of small nuclear reactors.

"Nuclear is very reliable, very resilient. It is carbon free," he told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview Monday. "It is, what I would consider, one of the highest quality generating sources we have. And so starting a path forward not only helps others in America follow, but it can also help America lead the world in the new technology."

The federally owned utility provides electricity to seven states and operates three traditional, large nuclear power plants, which provide 40% of the Tennessee Valley's power.

The region's population is growing, industries are replacing fossil fuels with electric alternatives and there's more manufacturing. The TVA expects to need up to 26 gigawatts of power by 2035, enough to power roughly 15 million homes, to meet the growing demand for electricity and replace retiring power plants.

Its board launched a program in 2022 to develop and fund small modular nuclear reactors as part of its strategy to dramatically reduce planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, and has provided \$350 million for it so far.

U.S. electric utilities have been reluctant to invest in new nuclear construc-



In this photo provided by Tennessee Valley Authority, Scott Hunnewell, vice president of the utility's New Nuclear Program, signs the construction permit application to build a small modular reactor, Monday, May 19, 2025, in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Associated Press

tion because of large cost overruns and delays in Georgia, as Georgia Power Co.'s Plant Vogtle was expanded from two of the traditional large reactors to four, said Jacopo Buongiorno, professor of nuclear science and engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The TVA decision is meaningful because it may be the start of a trend, Buongiorno added.

The United States does not have any next-generation reactors operating commercially. The NRC is currently reviewing applications from companies that want to build these reactors to begin providing power in the early 2030s. A project to build the first was terminated in 2023, as costs increased and not enough local power providers signed up to be part of it.

This month, the power company in Ontario, Canada, began building the first of four small nuclear reactors. Ontario Power Generation chose the same reactor the TVA wants to build, GE Hitachi's design that uses light water like all large U.S. commercial reactors.

In Ontario, they're expecting the first to cost \$6.1 billion, along with \$1.6 billion for equipment to build all four.

The cost is expected to decline with each subsequent reactor. TVA's cost estimates are in the same range, Moul said, but he declined to give specifics and said the utility is looking for partners to help with the initial costs.

The nonprofit Environmental Working Group says far cheaper, safer and cleaner electricity can be delivered much faster through investments in proven renewable sources like solar rooftops, battery storage and wind power.

There's "no bigger example of a money pit than the fantasy of small modular reactors" as a viable source of energy in the U.S., said Alex Formuzis, spokesperson for the research and advocacy organization. □

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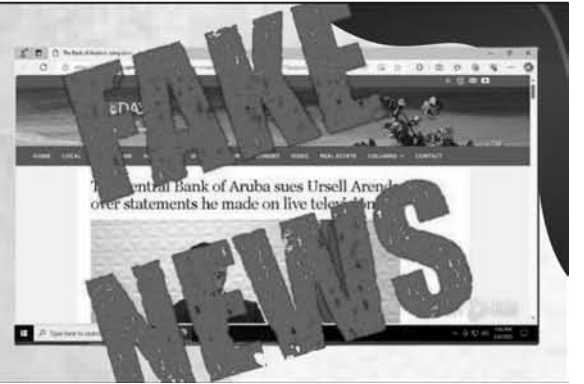
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Bakery in New Hampshire wins in free speech case over a pastry shop painting

By KATHY McCORMACK
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — A New Hampshire town's attempt to force a bakery to remove or alter its painting that shows sunbeams shining down on a mountain range of doughnuts, a muffin, a cinnamon roll and other pastries is unconstitutional, a judge ruled in a First Amendment dispute. The town of Conway infringed on the free speech rights of bakery owner Sean Young, U.S. District Judge Joseph Laplante ruled Monday, following a one-day trial in February. He ordered the town to stop any efforts at enforcing its sign code regarding the mural painted by high school students atop Leavitt's Country Bakery, mentioning a "complete disconnect between what the ordinance purports to regulate and the town's enforcement, as well as the



Owner Sean Young poses at Leavitt's Country Bakery, in this April 13, 2023 file photo, in Conway, N.H.

illogical way it applied and explained that enforcement" to Leavitt's. "I'm thrilled that the students' artwork can remain up, I'm thrilled that my First

Amendment rights have been vindicated, and I'm thrilled that the community can continue to enjoy the beautiful piece of art," Young said in a statement.

"I think our mural is a wonderful depiction of everything that makes the Mount Washington Valley such a great place to live." Young asked for \$1 in dam-

ages.

A lawyer representing Conway said they were disappointed by the outcome, but agreed with Laplante that the town and its officials "conducted themselves conscientiously and in good faith in managing town business."

The community of more than 10,000 people in the White Mountains draws skiers, nature lovers and shoppers.

Some residents want regulations enforced as they worry about overdevelopment in the tourist town. When the mural went up in June 2022, it attracted a lot of compliments and visitors, including one from a town zoning officer.

The zoning board decided that the painting was not so much art as advertising. The board determined it was a sign, and so it could not remain as is because of its size. □

Associated Press

Southwest Airlines will require chargers be kept out while in use because of battery fire concerns

By JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

Passengers on Southwest Airlines flights will soon be required to keep their portable chargers in plain sight while using them because of concerns about the growing number of lithium battery fires in a new policy that other airlines may adopt. Southwest announced the new policy that will go into effect May 28 and said passengers may already have seen notifications about the industry-leading rule when using the airline's app. There is growing concern about lithium-ion battery

fires on planes because the number of incidents continues to grow yearly, and devices powered by those

batteries are ubiquitous. There have already been 19 incidents involving these batteries this year, follow-

ing last year's record high of 89, according to Federal Aviation Administration statistics. The incidents have more than doubled since the pandemic-era low of 39 in 2020, and have climbed annually.

Compared to the roughly 180,000 flights U.S. airlines operate each week, the number of incidents is still relatively small and lithium batteries can overheat anywhere. However, this is a growing concern for the airlines.

Last summer, a smoking laptop in a passenger's bag led to the evacuation of a plane awaiting takeoff at San Francisco International

Airport. In 2023, a flight from Dallas to Orlando, Florida, made an emergency landing in Jacksonville, Florida, after a battery caught fire in an overhead bin.

Southwest said that requiring these chargers to be kept out in the open when they are being used will help because "in the rare event a lithium battery overheats or catches fire, quick access is critical and keeping power banks in plain sight allow for faster intervention and helps protect everyone onboard."

The airline will allow the chargers to be stored inside carry-on bags when they aren't in use. □



A Southwest Airlines plane pull into a gate at Pittsburgh International Airport in Imperial, Pa., Thursday, March 27, 2025. Associated Press

WHO adopts a 'pandemic agreement' after the chaos of COVID

By JAMEY KEATEN **Associated Press**

GENEVA (AP) — World Health Organization member countries on Tuesday approved an agreement to better prevent, prepare for and respond to future pandemics in the wake of the devastation wrought by the coronavirus.

Sustained applause echoed in a Geneva hall hosting the WHO's annual assembly as the measure debated and devised over three years passed without opposition.

The U.S., traditionally the top donor to the U.N. health agency, was not part of the final stages of pandemic agreement process after the Trump administration announced a U.S. pullout from the WHO.

Many world leaders offered words of support for the U.N. health agency, and praised the show of multilateralism.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking by video, congratulated WHO and the other member states, calling the accord "a shared commitment to fight future pandemics with greater cooperation while building a healthy planet."



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), applauds as member countries approve an agreement to combat future pandemics, during the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA78) at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Associated Press

While many supporters praised the "historic" deal, U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. delivered a scathing critique of the U.N. health agency, saying the United States was working with unspecified "like-minded" countries to improve the global health system and called on health ministers in others to join.

"Like many legacy institutions, the WHO has become mired in bureaucratic bloat, entrenched paradigms, conflicts of interest and international power politics," Kennedy said in a video statement. "We don't have to suffer the limits of a moribund WHO. Let's create new institutions or revisit existing institutions that are

clean, efficient, transparent and accountable." The U.S. administration cited the WHO's "mishandling of COVID-19" and failure to enact needed reforms, and "China's demonstrated political influence" over science and policy at the agency, the State Department said in an email. The U.S. was not sending

a delegation for the assembly, which runs through May 27.

"I urge the world's health ministers and the WHO to take our withdrawal from the organization as a wake-up call," Kennedy said. "It isn't that President (Donald) Trump and I have lost interest in international cooperation. Not at all. We just want it to happen in a way that's fair and efficient and transparent for all the member states."

China, meanwhile, was doubling down its support for WHO both politically and financially.

Vice Premier Liu Guozhong said "all sides need to firmly support the WHO to play a central coordinating in global health governance, (and) support WHO to perform its duty in an independent, professional and science-based manner."

China, he said through a translator, "will provide an additional quota of financial support to the WHO that can add up to \$500 million in the coming five years," without specifying. It was not immediately clear whether that amounted to a new financial commitment from Beijing. □

The EU says it will lift sanctions on Syria but leave those on the former Assad regime

By SAM McNEIL
Associated Press

BARCELONA (AP) — The European Union will lift sanctions on Syria's economy but keep those in place targeting the former Assad regime, the EU's top diplomat announced Tuesday. Foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas spoke after chairing a meeting of foreign ministers from the 27-member bloc. She said the decision was designed to avert poverty and radicalism in the country after more than a decade of civil war sent millions fleeing, including to Europe.

The sanctions are "conditional" and could be resumed if the new government of Ahmad al-Sharaa

doesn't keep the peace, Kallas said. "Saving lives must be our top priority on Syria," she said.

The announcement came a week after U.S. President Donald Trump's meeting with al-Sharaa and his announcement that the U.S. would ease sanctions on Syria. Lifting sanctions could bring much-needed investment to Syria, which needs tens of billions of dollars to restore its battered infrastructure.

An insurgency late last year unseated former Syrian President Bashar Assad and ended the civil war that decimated much of the country's infrastructure. The United Nations estimates that 90% of Syrians

live in poverty and state-supplied electricity comes as little as two hours every day.

Earlier in the day, Kallas acknowledged concerns about sectarian conflict but said "we don't have a choice" but to lift sanctions and bolster the Syrian economy: "We actually either give them possibility to stabilize the country or we don't do that and we have something like what we have in Afghanistan." Kallas added: "There can be no peace without the path to economic recovery, and we all need a stable Syria."

She did not provide details or timing on the lifting of sanctions. But a European

Council statement said it would keep "sanctions based on security grounds,

including arms and technology that might be used for internal repression. □



European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas speaks with the media as she arrives for a meeting of EU defense ministers at the European Council building in Brussels, Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Associated Press

U.S. sends 68 migrants back to Honduras and Colombia in first voluntary deportation

By **CLAUDIO ESCALÓN** and **MARLON GONZÁLEZ**

Associated Press

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (AP) — The United States sent 68 immigrants from Honduras and Colombia back to their countries Monday on the first government-funded flight of what the Trump administration is calling voluntary deportations.

In the northern Honduran city of San Pedro Sula, 38 Hondurans, including 19 children, disembarked from the charter flight carrying \$1,000 debit cards from the U.S. government and the offer to one day be allowed to apply for legal entry into the U.S.

U.S. President Donald Trump has promised to increase deportations substantially. Experts believe the self-deportation offer will only appeal to a small portion of migrants already considering return, but unlikely to spur high demand. The offer has been paired with highly-publicized migrant detentions in the U.S. and flying a couple hundred Venezuelan migrants to a maximum-security prison in El Salvador.



A Honduran migrant who returned voluntarily from the United States walks after arriving at Ramon Villeda Morales Airport in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Monday, May 19, 2025.

Associated Press

Kevin Antonio Posadas, from Tegucigalpa, had lived in Houston for three years, but had already been considering a return to Honduras when the Trump administration announced its offer.

"I wanted to see my family and my mom," said Posadas, who added that the process was easy.

"You just apply (through the CBP Home app) and in three days you've got it," he said. The flight left Houston early Monday. "It's good because you save the cost of the flight if you have the intention of leaving."

Posadas said he hadn't feared deportation and liked living in the U.S., but

had been thinking for some time about going home. He said eventually he would consider taking up the U.S. government's offer of allowing those who self-deport to apply to enter the United States legally.

In a statement about the flight Monday, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said, "If you are

here illegally, use the CBP Home App to take control of your departure and receive financial support to return home. If you don't, you will be subjected to fines, arrest, deportation and will never be allowed to return."

Twenty-six more migrants aboard the flight were headed home to Colombia, according to a U.S. Department of Homeland Security statement.

Honduras Deputy Foreign Minister Antonio García said the Honduran government would also support the returning migrants with \$100 cash and another \$200 credit at a government-run store that sells basic necessities.

Among the migrants arriving voluntarily Monday were four children who were born in the United States, García said.

García, who met the arriving migrants at the airport, said they told him that being in the U.S. without documents required for legal immigration or residence had been increasingly difficult, that things were growing more hostile and they feared going to work. □

The EU is weighing whether to deport migrants to countries they have no obvious connection to

By **LORNE COOK**

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union is considering whether to deport migrants to countries they have no obvious connection to, in a drive to send away more

people who are not permitted to stay. Rights groups say the "safe third country" plans unveiled Tuesday contravene EU values and will burden poorer nations. Under the bloc's rules, people can be sent to coun-

tries deemed safe, but not to those where they face the risk of physical harm or persecution. "We can expect families being separated and people being deported without appropriate judicial review to places they don't even know," said Silvia Carta, Advocacy Officer at PICUM, a collective of organizations that defends migrants' rights.

The EU's executive branch, the European Commission, proposed that the 27 member countries should no longer feel bound to ensure that migrants have a link to a place they might be sent to.

The commission, which proposes EU laws and ensures they are respected, said that unauthorized migrants

could also be deemed to have a connection to a country if they crossed it safely on their way to Europe. This wouldn't apply to children traveling alone.

Under the plans, people could be forcibly taken to one of these countries before their cases are heard, even if they appeal.

The new draft rules, which must be endorsed by EU nations and the European Parliament to enter force, were unveiled as a number of countries including Britain and Italy seek to set up "return hubs" in third countries where rejected asylum seekers can be held until they can be deported.

The commission said its plans will speed up asylum procedures and ease

pressure on European administrations and facilities. EU law currently requires authorities to prove a link between applicants and the safe third country they might be sent to.

"Instead of spending endless time and resources offloading its responsibilities to other countries, the EU should invest in its own asylum systems," said Amnesty International's EU Advocate on Migration and Asylum, Olivia Sundberg Diez.

"Sending people to countries to which they have no connection, no support and no prospects, or may have only briefly transited through, is not only chaotic and arbitrary, but also devastating on a human level," Diez said. □



Migrants gather in an area near the Libyan-Tunisia border, as Libyan security forces and Libyan Red Cross workers distribute food aid to them on Sunday, July 23, 2023.

Associated Press

The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

(Oranjestad)—As the climate begins to dry up here, the Kibrahacha is ready to bloom. Known locally for its bright, yellow flowers, this special tree only blooms for three to four days only. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three to four days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make "funchi hasa"

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is "funchi hasa" (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste



Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN. □

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.

The legend of the Kibrahacha

Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudawecha, who was an epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted to time and went to go fetch Kudawecha. Upon telling Kudawecha that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudawecha was determined to bring back Aterima's father back

to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudawecha, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudawecha, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at



the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □

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Soaring through the blue skies Birds of Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's nature is very diverse and is home to several beautiful and majestic wildlife. Among these is the bright Trupial, whose angelic voice is always heard with the rising sun; the cuddly parakeet, always in company of another, and the majestic Warawara, a mighty bird that can be seen soaring in the clear blue skies.

Trupial

Icterus icterus, or known locally as the Venezuelan or Orange Troupial, is a striking songbird whose bright orange feathers can be spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of



sunrise, this beloved songbird likes to wake up with a tune. But don't let their angelic songs fool you; the Trupial can be a bit aggressive towards any threat, protective over their nesting spots—nesting spots they most likely stole from other birds. Trupials can be seen regularly, often in trees or on top of a cactus.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez



Prikichi (parakeet)

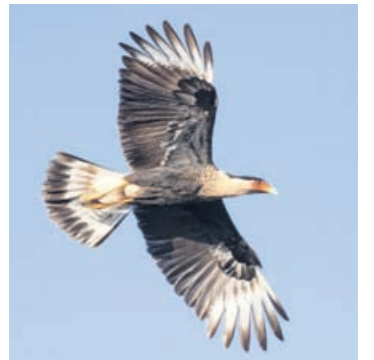
The Brown-throated Prikichi (*Aratinga pertinax*) became the national bird of Aruba back in 2015, at the request of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. The bright green, adorable parakeet usually flies in flock of 30 or more, but its population has been declining since the 2010s. Prikichis are a shier breed than the trupial,

often flying away at the sign of any threat. They use termite nests for breeding spots and feed mostly on seeds from the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi tree and fruits.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Warawara

The Warawara or Caracara is one of the biggest birds found in the Aruban mondi. At a height of 41 to 60 cm, their wingspan can measure up to 125 cm. Known as the "garbage man", this bird of prey mostly feeds on dead animals. Its coat is dark brown, with a cream-colored neck, orange face, thick beak and long legs. The Warawara prefers to build its nest in the middle of tall cacti and pro-



duces a rattling, screaming sound, throwing its head back onto its back while calling.

While these birds are a beautiful sight to behold, it is very important to keep your distance and respect their habitats. This is how we protect our wildlife. By admiring the beauty of Aruba in a safe and respectful manner, we can do our part in protecting our sacred nature. □

Photo Credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Casa del Mar Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of ap-

preciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively

visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors

Mr. David Higgingsbottom and Mrs. Sheila Kidd from North Andover, Massachusetts, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Casa del Mar Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's water.
- Aruba's safety.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



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The stories of "Compa Nanzi"

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as "Compa Nanzi". Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, "Compa Nanzi" is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the "new world" by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean. The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during

the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king
One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in. Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice. Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! "Soldiers, get him!" he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

"Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!" the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this

time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

"Compadre, listen here!" Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. "What is this?"

"Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see," Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. "Let me see!" he said.

"Well if you must insist," Nanzi said, "I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second." The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: "This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago." That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. "Nanzi!



Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?"

"I was, Your Majesty," Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones," Nanzi told the king.

"What is that you say?" the king was intrigued. "I want to see it too!"

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Where magic meets medicine: The story of Mamona

Episode CCCIV-304

Etnia Nativa's narrative emphasizes the importance of reclaiming and recognizing Aruba's cultural roots, often overshadowed by its colonial past. The platform promotes the rediscovery of native traditions, history, and identity.

In this episode, we explore a form of native medicine that has persisted in our culture since time immemorial: curanderismo, known in our native language, Papiamentu, as curioso. This ancient healing tradition is deeply rooted in religious magic and a profound connection to nature's elements and their effects—always cloaked in symbolism and mystery.

Since ancestral times, magic and religion have played a central role in how humans understand and respond to health and illness—and our small island is no exception. Across the American continent and the Caribbean, many believe that illness can result from violations of natural laws or divine will.

Over time, Spanish Christian traditions merged with the magical-religious beliefs of native peoples, giving rise to forms of traditional medicine that continue to thrive in various parts of the world today.

Among native communities, magical-religious beliefs shaped how ailments were classified: as physical, psychological, or the result of curses and witchcraft—the latter believed to be undetectable by conventional medicine. It was also widely believed that individuals could bring illness upon themselves; that folk healers might practice white magic (to heal) or black magic (to harm); and that these healers possess a 'gift' for healing and divination, often revealed through dreams.

Not too long ago, there was a healer—a native curioso and midwife—popularly known as Mamona. She was part of our island's fabric and the world of traditional healers. Although not formally recognized by the healthcare system, she offered all kinds of care that, for many in our community, felt more trustworthy than conventional medicine.

I remember Mamona kept a kind of bowl under her bed, where she had patients urinate so she could analyze the urine simply by looking at it. This was just one of many methods she used to diagnose ailments and determine the right treatment.

Mamona was originally from Noord, where she had always lived and was well known across the island. People from all districts came to consult her. Her humble home was always spotless, and amidst softly flickering candles, she was always ready to welcome the next visitor and begin the healing work.

Patients came to Mamona with a wide range of concerns. She treated indigestion, as well as conditions like panic, fright, and even certain "traumas." One practice particularly sought after by pregnant wom-



Note: The person in the photo is not Mamona; she is simply a "curioso" in action.

en was the turning or repositioning of babies in the womb to bring comfort to both the mother-to-be and her child. This was done to help facilitate birth. Others sought her help for depression, or came simply in search of spiritual guidance.

One day, to the surprise of Mamona and all of Aruba, the Pastor of Noord came to visit. He had been suffering from an eye ailment that no doctor could diagnose or relieve. Mamona approached him, gently took the Pastor's face in her hands, and calmly assured him that she knew what was wrong with his eye—and that she would heal it.

With great care, Mamona inserted her tongue into the Pastor's eye and removed a tiny thorn (naño) that had been causing persistent pain and watering, making it difficult for him to carry out his daily work. After days of discomfort, the Pastor experienced immediate relief. Once again, Mamona had fulfilled her mission of healing—even for a Dutch priest.

The ways in which health and illness are understood are not universal; they depend on cultural frameworks and

the meanings assigned by individuals within each community. Native medicine, often deeply rooted in magical-religious beliefs, sometimes offers explanations for illness that differ from those of conventional medicine. Healers, herbalists, shamans, and Curiosos continue to fulfill the medical and social roles they have held for centuries, treating conditions ranging from physical ailments—such as bone, stomach, and heart problems—to emotional and even 'supernatural' issues, like fright, curses, or spiritual imbalances. □

If you enjoyed reading our stories and are interested in learning more regarding the true identity of the island, we recommend you to book a visit to Etnia Nativa—the only "living museum of its kind in the Caribbean"—a fascinating choice, a trend-setter since 1994 and co-founder of Islands National Park, Archaeological Museum Aruba and Artisan Foundation among others. Etnia Nativa shares valuable knowledge and connects you to the ancient island's spirit and soul.

WhatsApp 297 592 2702
or etnianaativa03@gmail.com

Aruban fruits in season *Tamarijn and Macapruim*

Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious. Currently there are two fruits that are currently in season: the 'tamarijn' and 'macapruim'.

Tamarijn (Tamarind)

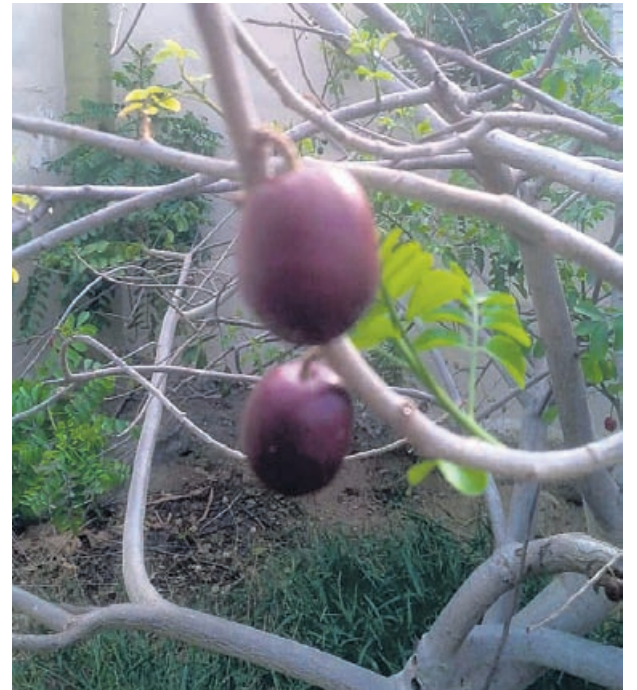


A delicious, sweet and sour fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for me-

dicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March-May.

Macapruim (red mombin)

This tiny apple-looking fruit is related to the cashew fruit. It's common in tropical countries in South America and the Caribbean. Its tree does not hold many leaves when the fruit is in season, giving an appearance of a dried out tree, adorned with red Christmas balls. The Macapruim seed is quite large for such a tiny looking fruit, but when ripe, the flesh tastes sweet and juicy, with a thick peel that's almost crunchy when you bite into it. Aruban grown



macapruims are not really sold in supermarkets; the ones you do find tend to hail from Venezuela. Macapruims are a great source of calcium, phosphorus, iron and have a small amount of fiber. They contain carotene, B-complex vitamins, and several important amino acids. They are also high in antioxidants, which help cleans the body. Season: April-August. □

Forgotten gems Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theatres. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this

theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

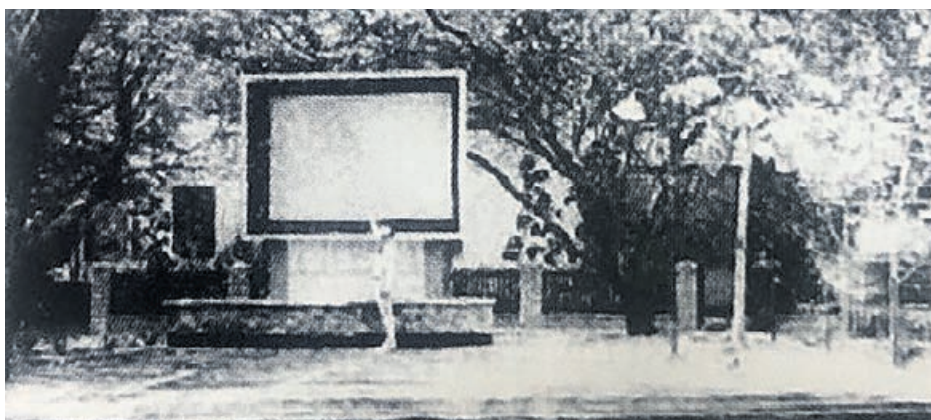
The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was



a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi. □

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.



CROSSWORD

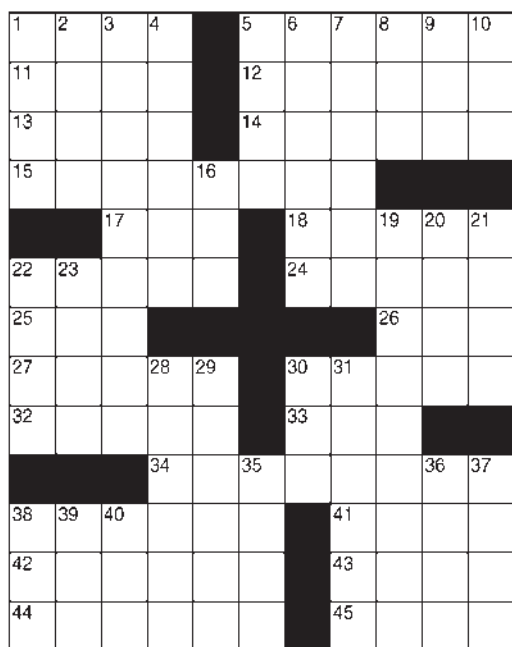
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 44 Un- assuming
1 Anthropologist Margaret
5 Singer Ronnie
11 Car bar
12 New York tribe
13 Brazen-ness
14 Off the path
15 Copies
17 Opening
18 Diving positions
22 Crow
24 Spending binge
25 Colony member
26 Binary digit
27 Feeds the pigs
30 Accords
32 Pancake topper
33 Swearing-in vow
34 Address ends
38 Frying sound
41 Irritate
42 Ring islands
43 "Frozen" queen

DOWN

- 1 Christmas travelers
2 Final, for one
3 Big reptile
4 River areas
5 Castle circler
6 Detail maps
7 Abates
8 Polite address
9 Oklahoma city
10 Fork over
16 Fitting
19 Big reptile
20 English county
21 Espies
22 Deep voice
23 Just
28 This is one
29 Kitchen goofs
30 Snap
31 Cherished
35 Mosquito or gnat
36 Different
37 Scorch
38 Sleuth Spade
39 "How was — know?"
40 General who's a foe of Superman



5-25

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-25

CRYPTOQUOTE

A F S Z W L ' J O Y J T M F G K Y E

G I A F S E F A F S B F V L

G B F L G L O . — X Y B A K

T J B Y Y M

Cryptoquote: I AM NOT A PERSON TO BE PRESSURED — BY ANYBODY OR ANY NATION. — INDIRA GANDHI

Cruise ship Schedule: May 20 - 30 2025

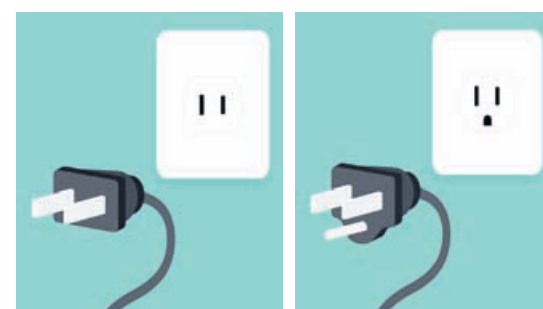
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	20	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	07.00 13.00	16.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	21	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION OASIS OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 08.00 06.00	22.00 21.00 ****	C I E	1 1 1
SUN	25	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	27	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	28	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
FRI	30	ISLAND PRINCESS	07.00	18.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



More tornadoes and fewer meteorologists make for a dangerous mix that's worrying U.S. officials



Anthony Broughton stands amid his destroyed home following severe weather in the Sunshine Hill neighborhood of London, Ky., Saturday, May 17, 2025.

Associated Press

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — As nasty tornadoes popped up from Kansas to Kentucky, a depleted National Weather Service was in scramble mode.

The agency's office in Jackson, Kentucky, had begun closing nightly as deep cuts by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency began hitting. But the weather service kept staffers on overtime Friday night to stay on top of the deadly storms, which killed nearly 20 people in the Jackson office's forecast area.

It's a scenario likely to be repeated as the U.S. is on track to see more tornadoes this year than in 2024, which was the second-

busiest tornado year on record. Forecasters said there was at least a 10% risk of tornadoes Tuesday for 10.6 million people in parts of Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Weather service veterans expressed concern about the agency's ability to keep up in the face of the cuts.

Rich Thompson, lead operations forecaster at the NWS Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, said the job is getting done. But he acknowledged that staffing cuts have "made it harder on us."

"It has made it hard on the local offices just to make sure that we have all of our important duties covered. But, I mean, most of the people take those important duties seriously, so

we're going to do what it takes to cover it," Thompson said. "I hope we're not in the same staffing situation long term. It would be hard to sustain this for months or years."

NWS spokesperson Erica Grow Cei said the Jackson office "remained fully staffed through the duration of the event using surge staffing" and had support from neighboring offices.

A leaner weather service is seeing more extreme weather

The Storm Prediction Center had tallied 883 local tornado reports this year as of Monday, which was 35% higher than average for this time of year.

Many former weather service employees, especially those fired by the Trump administration, remain connected to the agency's inner workings. □

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Eagle: Tel.587 9011

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Aloe:Tel.584 4606

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
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AID FOUNDATIONS

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FAVI- Visually Impaired
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Narcotics Anonymous
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Fundacion Contra Violencia
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Can you control required minimum distributions?

Christine Benz of Morningstar

Once you hit required minimum distributions age (73), how much control do you have over the timing, amount, and source of your distributions? Let's examine each of the levers.

Timing

Retirees exert some control over the start of RMDs via their required beginning date, which is April 1 following the year in which they turn 73. Deferring this tax bill by close to a year might seem like a win, but you'll have to take an additional RMD by the following year-end. That means that delaying the first RMD isn't often advisable.

People over age 73 who are still working and covered by a retirement plan can also typically delay RMDs from that plan. But if they have an IRA separate from the plan, RMDs are still due from the IRA.

Once RMDs are up and running, retirees can take their RMDs any time in the year that they wish. Some take them early so they don't forget, while others delay them until year-end to coincide with other year-end tax planning and char-



This Oct. 24, 2016 file photo shows dollar bills in New York.

itable giving. One common misconception about RMDs is that you could reduce the tax bill by taking the distribution when the market is down and your account balance is low. In reality, the amount of your RMD is effectively "cooked" by the end of the previous year. For example, your 2025 RMD amount is based on your account balance as of year-end 2024.

The amount

Investors have a bit more control over the amount of their RMDs, though the opportunity to lower them and the taxes due is greatest in the pre-RMD years. Making contributions to Roth accounts rather than traditional tax-deferred vehicles is a key lever. The postretirement, pre-RMD years are also an excellent time to convert traditional

IRA balances to Roth at a life stage when people usually have a lot of control over taxable income. Accelerating withdrawals from RMD-subject accounts can also make sense in those postwork, pre-RMD years, enabling investors to lower their RMD-subject balances when their tax rate is low relative to what it might be later on. Once RMDs start, charita-

ble giving is the best way to lower taxes on RMDs. Making a qualified charitable distribution from an IRA is an option once you reach age 70.5, which can help you skirt the taxes that would normally be due if you took the RMD and spent it.

In addition, the QCD amount satisfies all or a portion of your RMD, and it also lowers your RMD-subject balance.

The source

Retirees have a fair amount of control on determining which accounts or holdings to take RMDs from. Strategic RMD-taking won't lower the taxes due on the distribution, but it can help take risk out of the portfolio or achieve other investment aims.

For example, let's say I have 10 holdings in my IRA, a combination of US and non-US stocks, bonds, and cash. As long as I pull the right amount from the IRA for my RMD, I can apply some investment strategy to determine where I go for that withdrawal. After an equity market rally, for example, I may wish to pull all of my RMD from US equities to rebalance and reduce risk in my portfolio. □

Associated Press

Levi Strauss agrees to sell Casual Friday staple Dockers for up to \$391 million

By **WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS**

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Levi Strauss is set to finally part ways with Dockers inking a deal to sell its brand once credited with propelling the popularity of "Ca-

sual Fridays" to Authentic Brands Group.

In an announcement Tuesday, the denim giant said it had agreed to sell Dockers to Authentic for up to \$391 million. The transaction will start at an initial value of \$311 million, with the po-

tential of adding another \$80 million to the price tag based on business performance under the new ownership.

The sale arrives as San Francisco-based Levi Strauss boosts its focus on the chain's core Levi's brand as well as Beyond Yoga, which the company acquired in 2021, as more and more consumers continue to cozy up to athleisure wear.

Selling Dockers "further aligns our portfolio with our strategic priorities," Levi Strauss CEO Michelle Gass said in a statement, while thanking the Dockers team for their commitment to building the brand, which she said "continues to be the authority on khaki."

Jamie Salter, founder and CEO of New York-based

Authentic, called Dockers a "natural fit" for his company's model. Dockers "played a key role in shaping casual workwear as we know it today, and we see significant potential to build on that legacy and grow the brand across a variety of categories," he said.

Levi Strauss launched Dockers back in 1986, and the brand soon became a "Casual Friday" staple. Many office workers turned to Dockers' khakis and looser button-downs in the place of more traditional business attire. While it was not the sole or very first creator of dressed-down office looks, Dockers has been widely-credited as an integral part to "Casual Friday's" rise, particularly in the 90s.

But the nearly 40-year-old

brand has struggled some in recent years notably since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many shoppers traded their khakis for more comfortable clothes, like yoga pants and other athleisure, as they began working from home. And even with returns to the office, many dress codes remain more relaxed than they were before. Levi Strauss said it began to "evaluate strategic alternatives" for Dockers in October of last year, citing recent underperformance at the time.

On Tuesday, Levi Strauss said it expected to close Dockers' sale to Authentic around July 31 for the U.S. and Canada, pending customary closing conditions, and in January 2026 for remaining operations. □



A Levi's banner adorns the facade of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, March 21, 2019.

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Brewers' Contreras showing that his fractured finger won't limit his hitting productivity

By STEVE MEGARGEE

AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee Brewers catcher William Contreras is learning how to keep hitting the ball hard while dealing with a fractured left middle finger. Contreras has been playing through this injury for much of the season, which has impacted the hitting production of one of the game's top catchers. But he's turned a corner lately. The two-time All-Star went 4 for 4 with a pair of doubles and hit a tiebreaking two-out RBI single in the eighth inning of the Milwaukee Brewers' 5-4 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Monday. He has gone 9 for 16 at the plate over his last five games. "It's been the William Contreras who finished in the top five of the MVP voting last year,"



Milwaukee Brewers' William Contreras hits an RBI single during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Monday, May 19, 2025, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

Brewers manager Pat Murphy said.

Contreras ranked fifth in

the MVP balloting after leading Milwaukee to a second straight NL Central

title last year. Contreras understands how much he means to this team,

which helps explain why he has continued to play just about every day even while facing this injury.

"I've worked too hard to miss a day," Contreras said. "I don't want to take two or three months off."

Teammates appreciate Contreras' ability to play through pain. Contreras has missed just three of Milwaukee's first 48 games this season after playing 155 games last year. Even when he isn't catching, Contreras typically remains in the lineup as a designated hitter.

"It really shows his passion to one, play the game, and also about how important he thinks winning is and how badly he wants to win and be a part of it," pitcher Quinn Priester said. "It's really easy to play with and trust a guy like that." □

Hoole wins Giro time trial on stage 10, Del Toro keeps overall lead

PISA, Italy (AP) — Daan Hoole won the individual time trial at the Giro d'Italia on Tuesday for the biggest victory of his career, while Isaac del Toro kept hold of the leader's pink jersey at the end of the 10th stage. Hoole made the most of going early, on dry roads, to finish the 28.6-kilometer (18-mile) course from Lucca to Pisa in 32 minutes, 30 seconds. It was the Dutch national time trial champion's first victory in a Grand Tour.

"It's unbelievable. I mean it didn't sink in yet," Hoole said. "I was aiming for this day and I was feeling good all week but to win, I never thought I would do this."

The 26-year-old Hoole was seven seconds faster than Joshua Tarling, who won the first individual time trial on the second stage of the Giro.

Ethan Hayter was third-quickest to cross the finish line, in front of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, 10 seconds slower than Hoole.

They all completed the course in dry conditions but rain had started falling by the time the bunch of general classification favorites started to set off.

"Of course the GC guys they had rain and that changed a lot but I'm still happy I could beat Tarling in more or less in the same conditions," Hoole said.

Del Toro managed to stay

in pink but saw his lead slashed by UAE Team Emirates XRG teammate Juan Ayuso, who didn't seem hindered by the increasingly wet roads.

Ayuso cut the gap by almost a minute, moving to within 25 seconds of Del Toro who is the first Mexican cyclist to lead the Giro.

Antonio Tiberi remained third, trimming the gap to 1 minute, 1 second.

"I knew it would be super hard but I tried to finish another day in pink and it was super good," the 21-year-old Del Toro said.

"I knew I have a lot of time on my side and I don't want to take risks. Then I was struggling to go straight on

the bike but it was fun and I'm super happy."

Pre-race favorite Primož Roglič recovered from another crash during his re-

con ride in the morning to leapfrog some of his rivals and move into fifth place in the overall standings, 1:18 behind Del Toro. □



Dutch rider Daan Hoole pedals past the Pisa's leaning Tower during the 10th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, an individual time trial from Lucca to Pisa, Italy, Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

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Scottie Scheffler brings a Grand Slam back into view with PGA Championship win

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

The last chance for another career Grand Slam this year seemingly ended when Jordan Spieth missed the cut at the PGA Championship.

The next two days might have changed the outlook. Scottie Scheffler won the PGA Championship with two stretches that were simply sublime. There was the closing five holes on Saturday that he played in 5-under par to build the lead, and the opening six holes on the back nine Sunday to stay there.

In both cases, he didn't miss a shot. Not one.

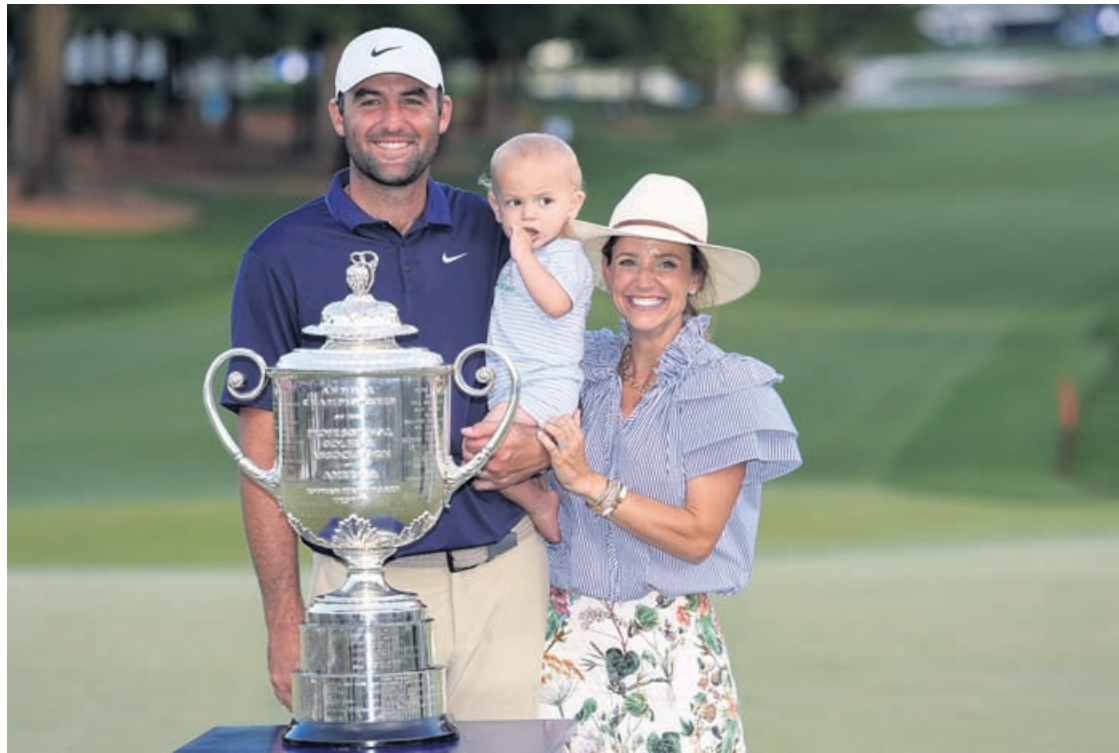
"I hit the important shots well this week, and that's why I'm walking away with the trophy," Scheffler said. "When I needed to, I feel like I hit the shots."

This was the epitome of execution, enough to wonder if he can win the U.S. Open and British Open over the next two months, the two majors he doesn't already have.

Scheffler, with two Masters green jackets and the Wanamaker Trophy, now is halfway home to the career Grand Slam. He's been No. 1 in the world for the last two years, and really golf's best since 2022. He has been No. 1 for 89% of the time since he first got to the top of the ranking.

Scheffler talked about the career Grand Slam a few days after Rory McIlroy won the Masters for the final leg. As usual, he delivered a dose of perspective.

"I've only won one," he said, his two majors coming from Augusta National. "That's the other side of the coin. It's not easy to get on the cusp, but it's a lot easier to get on the cusp than



Scottie Scheffler, wife Meredith pose with their son Bennett after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club, Sunday, May 18, 2025, in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

to actually pull it off. I've been playing some pretty good golf and I'm not even close."

He is a step closer now, and the way he played at Quail Hollow might make it look closer than it appears. This wasn't his best golf over four days, or even three days.

It took him a while to get going in his round the opening two days. His life-long coach, Randy Smith, was with him on the range Friday evening, placing his hands on Scheffler's hips and crouched over to avoid being hit by the club, all to make sure his hips were clearing.

But oh, those two stretches. His 3-wood into the 304-yard 14th hole was the shot of the tournament, settling just under 3 feet away that set off his eagle-birdie-par-birdie-birdie finish for a three-shot lead. The only par was a 7-iron off a slightly sidehill lie to a right

pin that was awkward. He hit it to 12 feet and called it his best shot of the day. Scheffler doesn't often rank shots. This was special.

That was to build a lead. Tougher still was having to hold it on Sunday with Bryson DeChambeau briefly leading and Jon Rahm charging, two daunting sights in a major.

Scheffler was struggling, at least by his standards. On eight of nine holes on the front nine, from either the tee or the approach, the miss was to the left. He went from a five-shot lead to a tie with Rahm. His caddy, Ted Scott, doesn't get overly worried about much and suggested to him, "Maybe you're aimed over there. Just try and hit a little further right."

Genius. Scheffler hit every fairway the bunker on the reachable 14th, which should count given the ideal position and was in the right

spot on every green.

"I knew I needed nine really good holes," he said. To hear him explain it was brilliant in its sheer simplicity.

"I hit a good shot on 10, good approach shot, and I executed. From there, fairway on 11, really good iron shot. Fairway on 12, really good iron shot. Good iron shot on 13. Good tee ball on 14, good birdie there. Two great shots on 15," he said.

Rinse and repeat.

"From 10 to 15, I felt like I executed as good as I had almost all week," Scheffler said. "That was a very important time in the tournament."

And then it was over before it was really over, just like his other two major titles. He wears everyone down with near flawless execution, the hallmark of his game. Scheffler looked over from the 15th hole to see Rahm on his way to making bo-

gey. DeChambeau had faded by then. Scheffler started the back nine in a tie. He was up by six shots toward the end.

He became the first player since Tiger Woods in 2007 to win by at least five shots in consecutive PGA Tour starts in the middle of the season. He won in Dallas by eight, the PGA Championship by five, and now goes to Colonial with expectations higher than ever.

Getting on the cusp of the career Grand Slam indeed is hard, and Scheffler is not there yet. But as many comparisons as there are with Woods, it's not too much to think Scheffler can win at Oakmont next month and at Royal Portrush in July.

He's not thinking that far ahead. Scheffler doesn't set goals, he only appreciates winning. Getting from the first hole Thursday to the 72nd hole on Sunday is what he enjoys.

A performance like that by a player like that makes it easy to forget McIlroy won at Pebble Beach, The Players Championship and the Masters. It was a weird week for McIlroy at Quail Hollow, mainly the Masters champion feeling above any obligation to speak to the media for four days, even the Irish who have documented him his entire career.

The last anyone heard from McIlroy was the day before the PGA Championship started. The career Grand Slam achieved, he said anything else he accomplished in golf would be a bonus.

He still competes. He just no longer chases.

The chase now falls to Scheffler.

And all he cares about his competing. □